

Agency Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2002	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2004	New Proposals Fiscal 2004	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2004	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2005	New Proposals Fiscal 2005	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2005	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 04-05
FTE	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
Personal Services	170,288	43,237	(39,259)	174,266	42,566	(35,316)	177,538	351,804
Operating Expenses	161,377	4,659	(20,120)	145,916	(159)	(20,120)	141,098	287,014
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$331,665</b>	<b>\$47,896</b>	<b>(\$59,379)</b>	<b>\$320,182</b>	<b>\$42,407</b>	<b>(\$55,436)</b>	<b>\$318,636</b>	<b>\$638,818</b>
General Fund	331,665	47,896	(59,379)	320,182	42,407	(55,436)	318,636	638,818
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$331,665</b>	<b>\$47,896</b>	<b>(\$59,379)</b>	<b>\$320,182</b>	<b>\$42,407</b>	<b>(\$55,436)</b>	<b>\$318,636</b>	<b>\$638,818</b>

### Agency Description

The Commissioner of Political Practices is authorized by Title 13, Chapter 37, MCA. Additional responsibilities were defined by legislative initiative in 1980 requiring disclosure of acts by lobbyists and business interests of elected officials. The commissioner has responsibility for the ethical standards of conduct for legislators, public officers, and state employees pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 2, MCA.

### Summary of Legislative Action

Commissioner of Political Practices Major Budget Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Total funds decrease \$24,500 (about 3.7 percent) below the fiscal 2002 base budget</li> <li>○ Statewide present law adjustments increase funding, while off-setting reductions eliminate a vacant FTE, continue Governor and August 2002 Special Session reductions, and increase vacancy savings</li> <li>○ Funds are added to cover the HB 13 pay plan</li> </ul>	

The total budget for the Commissioner of Political Practices includes \$90,300 in present law adjustments and (\$114,800) in new proposals for a net decrease over the fiscal 2002 base of \$24,500. Present law increases adopted by the legislature consist of statewide adjustments for personal services, inflation and fixed costs. New proposals adopted by the legislature provide general fund savings attributed to eliminating funding for a vacant data manager position, continuing August 2002 Special Session reductions and Governor's 17-7-140, MCA, reductions, and increasing vacancy savings within the agency that was applied to all general funded agencies. The legislature adopted a pay plan in HB 13 that provides funding for increased employee health insurance costs in the 2005 biennium and a 25 cent employee pay raise that is effective on January 1, 2005.

### Other Legislation

House Bill 689 - This bill revises laws relating to lobbying. It establishes a payment threshold of \$2,150 that exempts an individual from being required to register as a lobbyist and pay the license fee contained in 5-7-103, MCA, if the individual is paid less than this amount. Of the \$150 filing fee, \$50 is deposited to the general fund and \$100 to a state special revenue account that is appropriated to the Legislative Services Division to fund the state broadcasting system (TVMT). Implementation of the payment threshold will reduce state special revenue for TVMT by \$19,400 and general fund by \$9,700 over the 2005 biennium.

Senate Bill 38 - This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Political Practices to provide information electronically and is anticipated to offset a portion of the \$16,850 reduction in the agency's 2005 biennium budget due to reduced printing and

mailing costs.

Agency Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2002	Executive Budget Fiscal 2004	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2004	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2004	Executive Budget Fiscal 2005	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2005	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2005	Biennium Difference Fiscal 04-05
FTE	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	
Personal Services	170,288	176,997	174,266	(2,731)	176,427	177,538	1,111	(1,620)
Operating Expenses	161,377	145,916	145,916	0	141,098	141,098	0	0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$331,665</b>	<b>\$322,913</b>	<b>\$320,182</b>	<b>(\$2,731)</b>	<b>\$317,525</b>	<b>\$318,636</b>	<b>\$1,111</b>	<b>(\$1,620)</b>
General Fund	331,665	322,913	320,182	(2,731)	317,525	318,636	1,111	(1,620)
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$331,665</b>	<b>\$322,913</b>	<b>\$320,182</b>	<b>(\$2,731)</b>	<b>\$317,525</b>	<b>\$318,636</b>	<b>\$1,111</b>	<b>(\$1,620)</b>

### Executive Budget Comparison

The legislature approved a budget that is slightly less than the amount recommended by the Governor. The difference is attributed to adjustments to personal services, including a decrease of \$7,800 due to a statewide reduction, and an increase of \$6,200 to fund the HB 13 pay plan for a net difference of about (\$1,600).

### Funding

This program is funded with general fund. The commissioner charges nominal fees for printing and distribution, receives filing fees from lobbyists, and can levy civil fines for violation of campaign laws.

Present Law Adjustments									
FTE	Fiscal 2004				FTE	Fiscal 2005			
	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds		General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services				43,237					42,566
Inflation/Deflation				1,977					1,977
Fixed Costs				2,682					(2,136)
<b>Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments</b>				<b>\$47,896</b>					<b>\$42,407</b>
<b>Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments</b>				<b>\$47,896</b>					<b>\$42,407</b>

### Present Law Adjustments

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget made by the legislature. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Legislative decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

New Proposals										
Program	FTE	Fiscal 2004				FTE	Fiscal 2005			
		General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds		General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 1 - Eliminate Position & On-going Reductions										
01	0.00	(56,648)	0	0	(56,648)	0.00	(56,547)	0	0	(56,547)
DP 655 - Personal Services Reduction										
01	0.00	(3,891)	0	0	(3,891)	0.00	(3,891)	0	0	(3,891)
DP 6800 - HB 13 - Pay Plan										
01	0.00	1,160	0	0	1,160	0.00	5,002	0	0	5,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$59,379)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$59,379)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$55,436)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$55,436)</b>

**New Proposals**

DP 1 - Eliminate Position & On-going Reductions - The legislature reduced personal services by approximately \$30,500 per year, impacting a vacant data manager position responsible for maintaining the agency database and other administrative support. The duties are being incorporated into the other two agency administrative support positions. In addition, the legislature continued the Governor's spending reductions of \$16,850 general fund made under 17-7-140, MCA, along with the legislature's special session reductions of \$9,225.

DP 655 - Personal Services Reduction - The legislature applied a further vacancy savings on general fund positions. The average for this agency is 1.2 percent on general fund and 1.2 percent on total funding.

DP 6800 - HB 13 - Pay Plan - The legislature passed a pay plan in HB 13 that provides an additional \$44 per month in insurance contributions in calendar 2004 and an additional \$50 per month in calendar 2005, as well as a \$0.25 per hour salary increase in the final six months of fiscal 2005. These amounts represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this pay plan. An additional \$44 per month in insurance contribution for the first six months of fiscal 2004 was not funded.

**Language**

"Item 1 includes a reduction in general fund money of \$3,891 in fiscal year 2004 and \$3,891 in fiscal year 2005 for the statewide FTE reduction."

"The commissioner of political practices is encouraged to use the department of justice, agency legal services (ALS), for activities needing legal and investigative assistance. The commissioner of political practices shall provide a report of legal expenditure activity in fiscal year 2004 and through December 31, 2004, in fiscal year 2005 by contracted services and ALS services to the general government and transportation appropriation subcommittee during the 2005 legislative session."